



Key to Ladybirds in Ireland




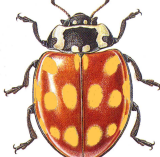




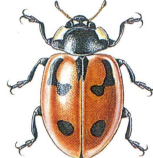

The Key below covers all ladybirds which have been recorded from Ireland. Species which occur in Britain are also included, inside brackets, to cover the possibility of vagrants or of recent colonists from Britain, turning up. This is an increasingly likely scenario with climate change and global warming.



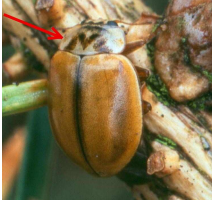
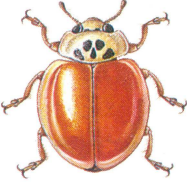
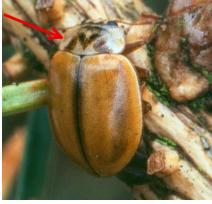
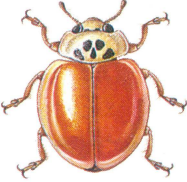







The Key is not infallible. Some ladybirds species are very variable in both ground colour and spotting. An inventory, of Irish colour forms would be desirable but is not available, nor likely to become available for some time. Please bear this in mind.

If you have a specimen that does not easily match anything in the key it is best to let an expert see it rather than make assumptions about its identity. Please contact CEDaR at the Ulster Museum or myself at roy.anderson@ntlworld.com.

Irish ladybirds

<p>1. Upper surface finely <u>hairy</u>; with a up to 24 black spots; ground colour a dirty brown-red.....24-spot <i>Subcoccinella 24-punctata</i> Upper surface completely <u>hairless</u>, shining.....2</p>	 <p>24-spot</p>
<p>2. Elytra coloured <u>black</u>.....3 Elytra <u>paler</u>-coloured, yellow, brown, orange, red, not black.....6</p>	
<p>3. With <u>pale markings</u> (yellow,orange,red) at the forward angle of the elytra.....4 <u>Pale markings</u>, if present, <u>never</u> at the forward angle of the elytra.....5</p>	
<p>4. <u>Legs and underside of abdomen black</u>; may have one, two or three pale markings on each elytron; if one, this is at the forward angle; if two, second is central; if three, third is at tip of elytron.....2-spot <i>Adalia bipunctata</i> <u>Legs brown; underside of abdomen dark brown to orange</u>; elytra usually has only one marking which is broad and curved inwards and forwards from the</p>	 <p>2-spot [melanic]</p>

margin..... 10-spot Adalia 10-punctata	 <p>10-spot</p>
<p>5. <u>Body oval with no lip at elytral margins</u>; usually a uniform black, occasionally with small tan markings at the tips of the elytra or (even rarer) at the middle of the sides....Hieroglyphic Coccinella hieroglyphica <u>Body round and domed</u>; with a well-defined lip around the margins of the elytra; markings always present; form a thin red band or a thin line of small red spots across the middle of the elytra.....Heather Chilocorus biustulatus</p>	 <p>Hieroglyphic [melanic]</p>
<p>6. <u>Elytra a bright orange-red to red colour</u>.....7 <u>Elytra some other colour</u> - cream, yellow, brown.....14</p>	 <p>Heather</p>
<p>7. <u>Spots on elytra pale</u>, 7 or 8 on each elytron; size large (up to 7mm).....Eyed Anatis ocellata(!) <u>Spots on elytra black</u>.....8</p>	 <p>Eyed [spots lack black centres]</p>
<p>8. <u>Scutellum with a large black spot</u> extending on to each elytron and smaller triangular white spots on the outer sides of this.....9 <u>Large scutellar spot absent</u>, or present but without the triangular outer white spots.....13</p>	 <p>13-spot</p>
<p>9. Definitely more elongate than the common ladybirds, <u>nearly twice as long as broad</u>; usually with six black spots on each elytron as well as the spot at the scutellum.....13-spot Hippodamia 13-punctata <u>Much less than twice as long as broad</u>; rounded oval shape.....10</p>	 <p>11-spot</p>
<p>10. <u>Less than 5mm long</u>.....11 <u>More than 5.5mm long</u>.....12</p>	 <p>13-spot</p>
<p>11. <u>With five round spots</u> on each elytron plus scutellar spot; hindmost spots on elytra are occasionally fused to form a black bar; body slightly elongate.....11-spot Coccinella 11-punctata <u>With three black spots</u> on each elytron plus the scutellar spot; the <u>foremost spot is usually elongate</u>, forming a dark bar; ground colour often less clear red, more bronze or brown.....Hieroglyphic Coccinella hieroglyphica</p>	 <p>11-spot</p>
<p>12. <u>Each elytron with 7 or 8 black spots</u> usually (not always) ringed with cream or yellow; pronotum distinctively marked.....Eyed Anatis ocellata <u>Each elytron with 3 black spots</u> plus scutellar spot; never ringed paler; pronotum different.....7-spot Coccinella 7-punctata</p>	 <p>Hieroglyphic</p>
<p>13. <u>Legs black; underside of abdomen black</u>; markings variable but usually with a single black spot in the middle of each elytron.....2-spot Adalia 2-punctata <u>Legs some shade of brown</u> though may be blackened</p>	 <p>Eyed</p>

<p>on the femora; <u>underside of abdomen brown to orange</u>; spots variable, from 2 to 12 and may form a checker pattern.....10-spot Adalia 10-punctata</p>	 <p>7-spot</p>
<p>14. <u>Elytra unmarked</u> except perhaps for some darkening at the suture (where the elytra touch).....15 <u>Elytra with definite darker or lighter spots</u>.....16</p>	 <p>10-spot [typical]</p>
<p>15. Elytra light brown to pinkish; sometimes with a dark smudge at the suture; <u>pronotum with a distinctive M-shaped marking</u>.....Larch Aphidecta obliterated Elytra yellow, orange, orange-brown or reddish; <u>pronotum different</u> - with five dark marks.....10-spot Adalia 10-punctata</p>	 <p>Larch</p>  <p>10-spot [spotless form]</p>
<p>16. <u>Body elongate and rather flattened</u>; ground colour buff with reddish or yellowish tinge; nine black spots on each elytron plus scutellar spot.....Water Anisosticta 19-punctata <u>Body domed and a rounded oval shape</u>.....17</p>	 <p>Larch</p>  <p>10-spot [spotless form]</p>
<p>17. <u>Spots black</u>.....18 <u>Spots pale</u>.....20</p>	 <p>Water</p>
<p>18. <u>Femora of hind legs predominantly black</u>; underside of abdomen mainly black; colour of elytra yellow, orange, orange-brown, red-brown; markings very variable - spots may be small or large or mixed, from 2-12 in total, or there may be a dark checkered pattern.....10-spot Adalia 10-punctata <u>Femora of hind legs yellow, orange or brown</u>; underside of abdomen predominantly orange or brown but may be blackish with an orange tip.....19</p>	 <p>Water</p>
<p>19. Elytra bright yellow; with <u>11 round black spots</u> on each..... 22-spot Thea 22-punctata Elytra yellowish to cream with distinctly <u>rectangular black markings</u>, often fused to form a characteristic checkered pattern.....14-spot Propylea 14-punctata</p>	 
<p>20. <u>Ground colour of elytra orange</u>; with 8, occasionally 7, white spots on each elytron.....Orange Halysia 16-guttata <u>Ground colour of elytra maroon, purple-brown, red-brown to dark brown</u>.....21</p>	 <p>22-spot</p>  <p>14-spot</p>
<p>21. <u>Lacking any white spots or patches near or beside the scutellum</u>; elytra maroon or brown with 5 cream, yellow or orange spots on each..... 10-spot Adalia 10-punctata (!) <u>With white spots or markings around the scutellum</u>.....22</p>	 <p>Orange</p>
<p>22. Spots streaked or elongated, never all rounded.....Striped Myrrha oblongoguttata Spots rounded, rarely several fused to look like</p>	

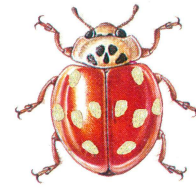
streaks.....23

23. With 6 whitish spots on each elytron plus a rounded scutellar spot on each side of the scutellum; pronotum with white only at the hind corners.....

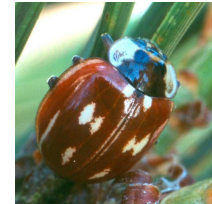
.....**Cream-spot *Calvia 14-guttata***

With about 5 whitish spots on elytra plus a series of fused spots on each side of the scutellum forming a distinctive zigzag shape; pronotum broadly pale along the front margin.....

.....**18-spot *Myrrha 18-guttata***



10-spot
[pale spotted]



Striped



Cream-spot



18-spot

(!) indicates unusual or rare varieties